

Serial No. 09/767,821

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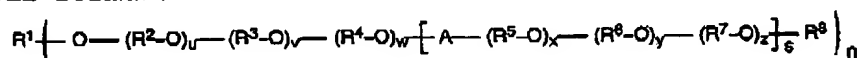
## A P P E N D I X I:

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Amend Claim 1 and add new Claims 18 to 21 as indicated in the following listing of the claims:

1. (currently amended) A process for preparing graft copolymers of polyvinyl esters which comprises polymerizing

- a) at least one vinyl ester of aliphatic C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-carboxylic acids in the presence of
- b) polyethers which are solid at room temperature and have the general formula I



in which the variables have the following meaning, independently of one another:

R<sup>1</sup> hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-alkyl, R<sup>9</sup>-C(=O)-, R<sup>9</sup>-NH-C(=O)-, polyalcohol residue;

R<sup>8</sup> hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-alkyl, R<sup>9</sup>-C(=O)-, R<sup>9</sup>-NH-C(=O)-;

R<sup>2</sup> to R<sup>7</sup> -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-, -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH(CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>)-, -CH<sub>2</sub>-CHOR<sup>10</sup>-CH<sub>2</sub>-;

R<sup>9</sup> C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-alkyl;

R<sup>10</sup> hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-alkyl, R<sup>9</sup>-C(=O)-;

A -C(=O)-O-, -C(=O)-B-C(=O)-O-, -C(=O)-NH-B-NH-C(=O)-O-;

B -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>t</sub>-, optionally substituted arylene;

n 1 to 8;

s 0 to 500;

t 1 to 12;

u 1 to 5000;

v 0 to 5000;

w 0 to 5000;

x 1 to 5000;

y 0 to 5000;

z 0 to 5000

c) and optionally at least one other monomer

by adding a free-radical initiator system, wherein the free-radical initiator system is a solution consisting of a free-radical

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initiator ~~in~~ and a liquid polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight between 88 and 1000 which polyethylene glycol is liquid at room temperature.

2. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solution of the free-radical initiator is added continuously throughout the polymerization reaction time.
3. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein liquid polyethylene glycol is used as solvent for the free-radical initiator at room temperature.
4. - 9. (canceled)
10. (previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the molecular weight of the liquid polyethylene glycol is between 100 and 500.
11. - 17. (canceled)
18. (new) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solid polyether (b) has a molecular weight of from 1000 to 500,000.
19. (new) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solid polyether (b) has a molecular weight of from 1000 to 100,000.
20. (new) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solid polyether (b) has a molecular weight of from 1000 to 20,000.
21. (new) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solid polyether (b) has a molecular weight of from 1000 to 15,000.